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CIA denies memo placing Hunt in Dallas

By Tom DeCola
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DALLAS — CIA Director Stansfield Turner says the agency has been unable to find any memo saying that Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt was in Dallas the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

"We have searched, and there is no such memo," Turner said yesterday. He was in Dallas to address a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention.

The Wilmington (Del.) News Journal reported Sunday that a secret CIA memo says Hunt was in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, the day of the assassination.

There are theories that Hunt was seen on a grassy knoll near the old Texas School Book Depository. The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, fired three rifle shots from a window of the depository into the Kennedy motorcade.

On Sunday, audio experts working for the House Select Committee on Assassinations fired rifle shots from the depository and rifle and pistol shots from a fence behind the knoll into sandbags that represented where

Kennedy was when each of the shots was fired.

The project was triggered by the discovery of audio "blips" on a recording made accidentally when a Dallas motorcycle officer's radio microphone stuck in the open position during the assassination. Some people have said the recording indicates that more than three shots were fired and that Oswald, therefore, did not act alone.

According to the Wilmington newspaper, the 1966 memo, now in the hands of the House committee, was initiated by Richard M. Helms, a former CIA director, and James J. Angleton, a former CIA counter-intelligence chief.

Sources close to the committee were quoted by the newspaper as saying the memo reveals that Helms and Angleton discussed Hunt's presence in Dallas and that his presence had to be kept secret because word of it would be damaging to the agency.

The memo also said that giving Hunt an alibi "ought to be considered," Turner said Hunt was "a former employe of ours," the newspaper reported.

Hunt, now living in Miami, denied

that he was in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, saying that he was in Washington and "took off at noon that day and went shopping and had a Chinese dinner in downtown Washington with my wife."

However, the News Journal quoted CIA sources who said that Hunt's story about being in Washington was a cover story concocted as a result of the memo.

Dawn Miller, spokeswoman for the assassinations committee, said there would be no comment on the report of the memo. The panel is to begin hearings next month on the Kennedy assassination.

Turner said that it was "always possible" that such a memo may have been removed from all files, but that it was "highly unlikely" given the number of copies made of such correspondence.

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